A dialogue with educationists and those working in the field of Minority education was held on 3-4 July, 2004. The objectives of the said dialogue was to get feedback from the minority communities regarding various issues related to Minorities Education and invite their suggestions to address these issues. The dialogue highlighted several areas of concern regarding Minority education and various suggestions, were made to improve the level of educational access and quality among the Minority communities. In order to follow up on these suggestions and in line with the National Policy on Education, the Government has constituted the "National Monitoring Committee of Minority Education" consisting of some Member of Parliament, representatives from State Governments, Academics, Activists and reputed Organisations (including Minority Organisations) to look into the various aspects of Minority Education including the review of the functioning of various schemes pertaining to Minority education.

Recognition to Private Universities by UGC

1226. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the University Grants Commission has given recognition to a number of private universities called 'Deemed Universities';

(b) the number of such Deemed Universities operating with the recognition of the UGC;

(c) whether it is a fact that the UGC has also withdrawn recognition to some Deemed Universities;

(d) if so, the names of such Deemed Universities which have lost recognition of the UGC during the last three years; and

(e) the steps proposed to improve the standard of university education through better functioning and supervision by the UGC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) No, Sir; Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956 provides that the Central Government, on the advice of the UGC can declare any Institution for higher education, other than a University, as Deemed to be University.

(b) Ninety Institutions including the institutions sponsored by Private Societies/Trusts have been notified as Deemed Universities.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Chennai Medical College & Research Institute, Chennai was granted 'Deemed to be University' status under the provision of Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956 on July 7, 1998 subject to a review after three years. On the request of the Government of Tamil Nadu, Deemed University status was withdrawn on 29th March, 2001.

(e) The UGC under its Act has been entrusted with the responsibility of promotion and coordination of university education and determination and maintenance of standards of teaching, examination and Research in Universities. To carry out these functions, the UGC/Government of India has made several rules/regulations on different subjects with a view to improve the standard of university education.

Universalisation of elementary education

1227. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) for universalisation of elementary education during the last one year; and

(b) the target set up to put and retain every child of school going age in the classroom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), annual work plan approvals in 2003-04 were given for 596 districts and a sum of Rs. 2698.38 crores was released to the respective States/UTs for implementation of the programme. *Inter-alia* approvals were accorded for opening of 67190 new schools, appointment of 398189 teachers, construction of 40960 school buildings, 68779 classrooms, 46272 toilets and 33161 drinking water facilities.

(b) All children in the age group of 6—14 are targeted to be covered under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan programme.